



Fast Facts

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

CHLAMYDIA

Chlamydia trachomatis is the most common bacterial sexually transmitted disease (STD) in the United States. Chlamydia affects approximately three million women nationally and 300,000 women and their partners in California. California also has the highest number of estimated cases of chlamydia in the nation among women 15-34 years of age.

In addition, teenagers and young adults under 25 years of age have the highest rates of infection and complications attributed to the disease. Among adolescents 15-19 years of age, it is estimated that one in ten is infected. It should be noted, however, that chlamydia crosses all ethnicities, economic and social classes, and geographic lines. Since up to 70 percent of women and 50 percent of men with chlamydia have no detectable symptoms, early detection and treatment are particularly important.

Effects of Chlamydia

- Chlamydia is the leading cause of preventable infertility in women.
- Chlamydia causes Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (PID). A significant number of women with PID will eventually develop potentially fatal ectopic pregnancy, chronic pelvic pain, and infertility.
- Pregnant women may transmit chlamydia to their newborn during delivery. Up to five percent of infants born in the United States are infected with chlamydia. Complications of untreated infections in newborns include conjunctivitis and pneumonia.

Treatment of Chlamydia

Chlamydia can be treated with the antibiotics doxycycline or azithromycin. Urine tests for both males and females are available to detect chlamydia.

Information Resources

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention provides a toll-free number (1-800-227-8922) individuals may call to ask questions about chlamydia and other STDs.
- The California Department of Health Services' STD Control Branch coordinates statewide prevention efforts and can refer inquiries regarding chlamydia to local STD offices. The number for the STD Control Branch is (510) 540-2657.